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LONG ASHTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1940.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
YEAR 1940.

Medical Officer of Health - Herbert Newsome, M.B., B.S.
Sanitary Inspector - E.T.H. Hawkins, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.
2nd Sanitary Inspector - B. Barker, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.
3rd Sanitary Inspector - H.G. Teal, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Long Ashton Rural District Council.

Sir, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the District during the past year.

The information therein is, as far as possible, in conformity with the requirements of the Minister of Health, as laid down in Circulars 2067 of July, 19th, 1940, and 2314 of 26th March, 1941.

The Minister directs that reports during the War period should be curtailed as much as possible, in view of increased pressure of work in Health Departments, and the need for strict economy in the use of paper.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area: 46,515 acres.
Population (Census 1931): 20,378.
Population (Registrar General's Estimate):-
22,970, to the middle of 1940.

Number of Inhabited Houses (End of 1940) according to Rate Books: 6477.

Rateable Value: £170,937.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £683.

There are no important changes to note as regards the social conditions or general characteristics of the area, except that the district is classed as a "Reception Area" for Evacuation purposes. This subject is dealt with at the end of the report.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births-Legitimate ...	321	163	158	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (Mid-1940): 14.19.
Illegitimate ..	5	2	3	
Totals ..	326	165	161	
Still Births-Legitimate ...	15	7	8	Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births: 43.9.
Illegitimate ..	-	-	-	
Totals ..	15	7	8	

DEATHS.

Total.	M.	F.	
289	140	149	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population: 12.5.

Deaths from puerperal causes (headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's short list):

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births
29-Puerperal Sepsis ...	1	5.8.
30-Other Puerperal Causes	1	

Death Rates of Infants under 1 year of age: Total deaths: 16
" " all Infants per 1,000 live births: 49.07
" " legitimate Infants per 1,000 live births 49.07
" " illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births: Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	48
" " Measles (all ages)	Nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	Nil
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1.

The total number of births (326) is 47 more than last year (279).

The birth rate (14.19) is rather higher than last year's (13.9).

The rate for England and Wales for 1940 is 14.6.

The total number of deaths (289) is much higher than last year (205).

The death rate (12.5) is also considerably higher than last year (9.7).

The death rate for England and Wales this year is 14.3.

The infant mortality rate (49.07) is much higher than last year (13.4) but is still below the rate for England and Wales (55.)

CAUSES OF DEATH			
Tuberculosis (all forms)	11	Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1
Influenza	5	Appendicitis	1
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	Other digestive diseases	7
Cancer (all forms)	48	Nephritis (acute and chronic)	10
Diabetes	3	Puerperal Sepsis and other Puerperal causes	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage and Embolism	27	Premature Birth	5
Heart disease	57	Congenital defects	6
Other diseases of Circulation	8	Suicide	2
Bronchitis	18	Road traffic accidents and other violent causes	15
Pneumonia (all forms)	12	Other Defined Diseases	34
Other respiratory diseases	9		
Ulcer of Stomach and Duedenum	6		

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases.

Disease	Notifications	Removals to Hospital	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	31	25	-
Diphtheria	19	18	-
Enteric Fever	2 (1 Para-typhoid)	2	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	1	1
Pneumonia	30	4	12
Erysipelas	3	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	4	4	-
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	1	1
Dysentery	2	-	-
Measles	59	-	-
Whooping Cough	18	1	-
TOTALS	172	56	14

There has again been no case of Small pox in the area, but recourse to vaccination is at a low level and steadily declining. The number of notifications is considerably increased largely to the inclusion of Measles and Whooping Cough in the list of notifiable diseases. Excluding these two diseases, the number of notifications is 14 more than last year.

It is of interest to note that of the 19 cases of Diphtheria notified, 18 of them were removed to Ham Green Hospital, and there was not a single death from this disease, nor was there one last year. Diphtheria immunization has been carried out during the year, and a very large percentage of children of school age have been inocculated. The number of children under the age of 5 years has not been quite so good, but on the whole this area shows a high percentage of children immunized against the disease, which should have a decidedly beneficial effect in the future, in reducing the incidence of Diphtheria cases and its mortality rate.

Measles was not so prevalent as expected this year, but there is every indication that it will be much more so in 1941.

The arrangement with the Bristol Authority to take all cases from this area into their Isolation Hospital, has been of great convenience again this year, and there has been no difficulty in getting cases removed there. Unfortunately it has been necessary to send 56 cases there this year, compared with 39 last year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Notifications ...	10	10	3	1	24
Deaths ...	8	3	-	-	11

There is nothing to complain of as to the neglect of notification, and there has been no necessity to take action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulation, 1925, or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

Health visiting and Sanitorium treatment are under the control of the County Authority, as are the Tuberculosis Dispensaries in this area, which are now at the Central Health Clinic, Bristol, and at Clevedon.

Tuberculosis Notifications and Deaths in Age Periods.

Age Periods	Notifications Pulmonary		Notifications Non-Pulmonary		Deaths Pulmonary		Deaths Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1st Year								
1 to 5 Years								
5 to 15 "	1		2	1				
15 to 25 "	3	5			1	2		
25 to 35 "	1	1			1	2		
35 to 45 "	1	4			1	1		
45 to 55 "	3		1		2			
55 to 65 "	1				1			
65 and over								
Totals	10	10	3	1	6	5	-	-

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The list of members of the Public Health Staff is given at the commencement of the Report. Laboratory facilities are provided by the County Authority, and there is no change to report in such matters as Ambulance facilities, nursing in the home, Treatment Centres and Clinics or Hospitals, public and voluntary. The Legislation in force in the area is also unchanged.

WATER SUPPLY.

No new schemes were put in hand during the year. Negotiations concerning a scheme to supply Kingston Seymour, which had been commenced in 1939, have been postponed until after the War.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The sewage disposal works for the Weston Road and Honeylands portions of the parish of North Weston were completed during the year and are now in action. All the North Weston Council Houses are connected to the system, and a few private owners have also connected their houses.

No other schemes have been considered during the year.

Rivers and Streams. Public Cleansing. Smoke Abatement. Swimming Baths and Pools. Eradication of Bed Bugs.	There is nothing fresh to report in these matters.

SCHOOLS.

Owing to the influx of evacuees into the District, several additional buildings such as public halls, are being temporarily used as schools by the County Education Committee.

CAMPING SITES

Many sites in the area are used as camping grounds, the majority of them being only used at week-ends during the summer months. Most of the sites are at Redcliffe Bay and Walton Bay, which border on and overlook the Bristol Channel. Some of the sites are licensed by the Council under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Owing to the severe air raids on Bristol, a considerable number of people have left the City and are living in various kinds of caravans in the District.

SANITARY INSPECTION.

The staff consists of 3 Sanitary Inspectors and 1 Clerical Assistant.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT for the year 1939.

Long Ashton Rural District, Somerset.

INSPECTIONS	No. of Complaints received during the year	51
	No. of Houses, Premises, etc., inspected	850
	No. of Re-Visits to see that work has been carried out, or for other reasons.	660
	No. of Houses Disinfected, or to which Disinfectants were supplied.	58
	No. of Visits to cases of Infectious Disease.	25
	Tuberculosis-Disinfections 9, Visits 9.	
SEWERS	No. of New Sewers laid down by Builder	-
	No. of Sewers Cleansed or Repaired	3
	No. of Visits to Sewage Works, Cesspools, etc.	100

HOUSE DRAINS	No. of Existing Houses Connected to Sewers	13
	No. Repaired or Cleansed.	11
	No. Relaid (piped)	4
	No. of New Pipe Drains Laid	83
EARTH CLOSETS, CESSPOOLS and W.C.'s	No. of Privies abolished	1
	No. of Cesspools Cleansed or Re-constructed	6
	No. of New Cesspools	22
	No. of Cesspools abolished	11
	No. of New W.C.'s (not including new houses)	22
	No. of New W.C. Pans or Repairs	14
	No. of New E.C.'s Constructed	-
	No. of E.C.'s converted into W.C.'s	4
NEW HOUSES	No. of New Houses Completed and Occupied	80
	No. of New Houses supplied by Company's Water	79
	No. of New Houses supplied by Wells or Cisterns	1
WATER SUPPLY	No. of Samples of Water taken for Examination	16
	No. of Existing Houses supplied with Company's Water	7
	No. of New Wells	-
	No. of Wells or Cisterns Cleansed or Repaired	-
	No. of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops Inspected	60
	No. of Bakehouses Inspected	18
	No. of Slaughter-houses Inspected	-
	No. of Factories Inspected	6

No. of Statutory Notices Served	2
Ministry of Health Enquiries held	Nil
Legal Proceedings taken	Nil

HOUSING.

Sixty-two houses were erected or completed by private enterprise during the year. The Council completed eighteen houses at North Weston to re-house persons from the three North Weston Clearance Areas and outstanding overcrowding cases.

One farm cottage at Walton Down was reconditioned under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.

Some of the empty houses subject to demolition orders have been requisitioned with the consent of the Ministry of Health by the Council, in order to provide accommodation for persons rendered homeless by enemy action, chiefly from Bristol. In other cases the owners have been granted licenses to temporarily re-let condemned houses on condition that the houses were let to a homeless tenant nominated by the Council.

As the District is adjoining a large town, which has been subject to heavy air raids, it is only to be expected that the area should become somewhat overcrowded, and all available houses and spare accommodation have been snapped up. A considerable number of people come into the District at nights to sleep and return to the towns next day. The tables and statistics relating to overcrowding are consequently omitted from this report.

A few houses have been put out of use by enemy action, but all damaged houses which can be repaired are attended to immediately after the damage has occurred.

HOUSING

1.- Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects ... ... (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	18
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	29

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations 1925 and 1932 11

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 15

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... Nil

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 10

2.- Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal notices:-

(a) Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... 16

(b) Number of houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action ... Nil

3.- Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-

(a) By owners ... ... Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ... Nil

(B)- Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 1

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a) By owners ... ... Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ... Nil

(C)- Proceedings under Section 11, 13, and 26 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made... ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 2

(3) (a) Clearance Orders made ... ... Nil
(b) Number of houses involved ... ... Nil

(4) Clearance Orders confirmed ... ... Nil

(a) Number of houses involved ... ... Nil
(b) Number of houses demolished... ... Nil
(c) Number of houses to be demolished.. 37

(D)- Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been made fit ... ... Nil

HOUSES ERECTED OR COMPLETED BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE DURING 1940.

Parish.	
Abbots Leigh	3
Backwell	3
Brockley	5
Dundry	1
Easton-in-Gordano	3
Flax Bourton	1
Long Ashton	12
Tickenham	4
Winford	1
Wraxall	1
Yatton	28
Total	62

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The following meat was condemned during the year as being unfit for human consumption:-

Beef. 332 lbs.

Mutton. 52 lbs. 6 sheep's plucks.

Pigs. 4 heads, 3 plucks, 1 whole carcase and organs, 32 lbs. bacon.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES. There are 11 private slaughter-houses, nine of which are registered and two licensed. None of these slaughter-houses are used for centralised slaughtering under the Ministry of Food, and consequently are all temporarily out of use during the period of hostilities.

MILK

No. of Producers on the Register	336
" Distributors only	23
" Distributors who are also producers	58
" Producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk	19
" Producers of Accredited Milk ...	29

During the year 91 samples of Accredited Milk and 61 samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk were taken on behalf of the County Council, and examined at the County Laboratory. 25 samples of Mixed Milk were also taken and examined at the County Laboratory for the presence of tubercle bacilli. The presence of tubercle bacilli was found in 4 samples.

One cowshed was reconditioned during the year.

EVACUATION.

The number of officially evacuated persons in this area at the end of 1939 was 1668, consisting of 1334 unaccompanied children, 65 mothers with 133 children, 99 teachers and 27 helpers. The decrease in numbers continued till there were only about 1000, but in September and October, when air-raids on London became very severe, about 500 more came in organised parties, and 700 others on their own responsibility, from the London Districts, and at the end of the year there were approximately 1740 officially evacuated. In addition, it is estimated that there were approximately 4950 unofficial evacuees in the Long Ashton Rural District.

Most of the official evacuees are billeted with families in the various parishes, but there are three hostels under the Council's control, viz:- Cleeve House (54 occupants), The Rectory, Nailsea (about 40), and Moorfields, Nailsea (34). All are being efficiently managed.

From all the information I have received, the health of this increased population has been quite satisfactory. The contagious skin troubles, which at first were a source of much trouble, have now practically disappeared. A few children have contracted infectious diseases, such as measles and whooping cough, which began to be prevalent towards the end of the year, and a few cases of scarlet fever have been notified, but there has been no extensive outbreak or any serious consequences to the children affected, as far as I can discover.

The "Sick Bay", at "The Grange", Flax Bourton, which at first was very useful in helping to eliminate scabies and other skin troubles, became largely devoted to treatment of "difficult children", and on the 1st December, this Council gave up control of the "Sick Bay", and handed it over to the control of the County Health Department for the psychiatric treatment of these "difficult children", but the "Bristol Society of Friends" continued in actual charge of it.

The arrangements for reception, billeting and generally providing for the evacuees have entailed an enormous amount of work and worry for Mr. E.J. Taylor, Evacuation Officer, and his Staff of paid and voluntary helpers, and I cannot speak too highly of the efficient manner in which Mr. Taylor and all concerned have carried out their arduous duties with, I think all will agree, the minimum of friction, considering all the difficulties that had to be overcome.

There have been no important new developments this year in respect of housing, water supplies or sewage disposal schemes, etc., owing to the War, and it is unlikely that any new schemes of importance will be undertaken until the War is over, but the routine work of the Sanitary Department has been efficiently carried on as usual, although the services of the staff, have, to a considerable extent, been occupied with additional duties such as coal control and salvage work, etc. War conditions have not however, been a cause of health troubles so far in this area.

In conclusion I should like to tender my sincere appreciation of the confidence shown and support given to me in the performance of my duties by the Chairman and Members of the Council, and to the Officers of the Health and other Departments for their able and cordial assistance and co-operation at all times.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) HERBERT NEWSOME.

July, 1941.

Distribution of Notifiable Diseases in the various Parishes in the area.

Names of the various Parishes in the Rural District	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Cerebro-spinal Fever	Enteric Fever	Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Dysentery	Measles	Whooping Cough	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	TOTALS
Abbots Leigh														-
Backwell	1						2			8	3	1		15
Barrow Gurney							1			1				2
Bishopsworth	1	5		3	1					5	1	3		19
Brockley											1			1
Clapton-in-Gordano	1												1	2
Dundry										2				2
Easton-in-Gordano	3		1		1	1	11			2	3	1	1	24
Flax Bourton	1						1					1		3
Kenn										18				18
Kingston Seymour	1	2								1		1		5
Long Ashton	1		1				5			1		1		9
Nailsea							2			3	4	2		11
North Weston	2	1					1			2	2	1		9
Portbury	2						2				1	1		6
Tickenham										5	1	1		7
Walton-in-Gordano	3									2				5
Weston-in-Gordano												1		1
Winford	2	11	1						1	4	2	1	1	23
Wraxall	2						4			3		1		10
Yatton	11			1			1	2	2	29	1	5		52
TOTALS	31	19	3	4	2	1	30	2	3	86	19	21	3	224